DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

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MR K ON GERMANY

Soviet Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchov outlined his policy on German questions in an interview with the London "Daily Express", published on December 31st. Here are some of the main points he made:

"There are more than ample grounds for anxiety about the present abnormal situation in West Berlin and about developments in the Federal Republic of Germany.

"Hitler embarked on preparations for aggression with an army of 100,000 men, but the criminal adventurers and German militarists cost the peoples 50,000,000 human lives. Today the West German Bundeswehr already has 400,000 officers and men. They are commanded by nazi Generals Heusinger, Speidel, Foertsch, Kammhuber, and others, by those who sowed death on Soviet, Polish and Yugoslav land and in France, by those who blitzed London, destroyed Coventry, and plunged the countries of Europe into a bloodbath.

"Militarists and revenge-seekers in West Germany hold forth – as did the Hitlerites – about 'protecting the free world' from the so-called Communist danger. Taking advantage of talk about the struggle against Communism, the West German military are reaching out for atomic weapons.

"It is stated in Bonn that their aim is to keep their guns trained on Moscow. But what they are really contemplating is to keep their guns trained on the whole world.

"In what part of Europe are explosions to be heard again today? Where are the shots ringing out? In West Berlin.

"The explosions take place in West Berlin, but the fuse is ignited in Bonn. What does this show?

"After all, the British Government, like the Governments of the U. S. and France, recognise that the German Federal Republic has no rights to Berlin whatsoever. Indeed, under the Four-Power agreements, West Germany can have no rights there.

"Yet, since West Berlin has become a NATO base, and the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) takes an active part in that block, the occupation authorities of the three powers – of which Britain is one – not only tolerate West Germany's dangerous ventures and international provocations in Berlin, but even cover them up ...

"The road to the normalisation of the situation in West Berlin, and in the whole of Europe, since this matter involves the bridling of the revenge-seekers and militarists, lies through the completion of a German peace settlement.

"Actually, we have come close to it, and the last efforts must be made. It is the duty of all the states of East and West to place a barrier in the way of dangerous developments in the centre of Europe, unless, having passed through the dangerous Caribbean crisis they want to find themselves in another crisis which would be even more hazardous and unmanageable.

"The Soviet Government proposes that this task should be resolved on a reasonable basis. And it is proposing that the remaining major issue – the troops in West Berlin – should be resolved through compromise.

"More specifically it is not the presence of troops in West Berlin that is at issue today, but the capacity in which such troops should be there, the countries they should belong to, the flag under which they should serve, and the period of time during which they should stay there.

"The Soviet Government is proposing that the troops stationed in West Berlin should not represent NATO countries.

"The Soviet Government says the NATO flag in West Berlin should be replaced by the flag of the United Nations, and that the UN should assume certain international obligations and functions there.

"This in no way prejudices the interests of the West Berlin population or, for that matter, the interests of Britain, France and the United States. And the cause of universal peace will unquestionably be benefited.

"We would like to hope that in the New Year the Western Powers will display reason and that at long last a mutually acceptable solution to the questions remaining as a legacy of the Second World War, including the normalisation of the situation in West Berlin, will be found.

"To this end it is essential that our partners in negotiation should also display understanding of the vital interests of the German Democratic Republic, the Soviet Union, and other socialist countries which are seeking to secure stable peace in Europe."

"Fill the Moat" – Ulbricht

In a New Year message to all Germans in East and West, Walter Ulbricht, Chairman of the State Council of the GDR, appealed for a mutual effort "to fill the moat" dug between the two German states.

"Can we not, in the New Year, work together to clear away as far as possible the sources of conflict in Germany?" Mr Ulbricht asked. "Can we not abolish the legacy of the Second World War with the help of a peace treaty? Can we not convert West Berlin into a peaceful neutral city? Can we not create at least a minimum of correct and concrete relationships between the two German states?"

FOR A COMPROMISE IN GERMANY

(Is an honest compromise between the two German states conceivable and possible? In a long editorial article on January 3rd "Neues Deutschland", the central organ of the Socialist Unity Party of the GDR, dealt with this question. Below we outline, in greatly condensed form, the main points made in this article, which reflects the opinions of the Government of the German Democratic Republic.)

The most suitable form to bring about peaceful co-existence in Germany is a confederation of the two German states, which could be joined by a West Berlin Free City.

A confederation is a "Staatenbund" (Confederacy), that is to say a relatively loose linking of different states. Various joint organs and institutions are set up, but the member states retain their sovereignty. In our case this would be a confederacy between states with differing social systems. The element of compromise would consist of the fact that they would not make demands or impose conditions with regard to the social order. The compromise would be based upon equal rights and mutual respect for sovereignty.

Under our circumstances the member states (West Germany and the GDR, ed.) would not be able to renounce their sovereignty in favour of a central authority, since the lives of a socialist and a capitalist society cannot be governed by the same laws. As long as states with varying social systems exist in Germany, only a confederacy can be considered.

It would naturally be better if socialism could be constructed in the whole of Germany. When the Hitlerite state was destroyed in 1945 we aimed to preserve German unity and take the road to the new era for the whole of Germany. However, the intervention of the imperialist occupation powers and the continued split in the working class movement prevented a national rebirth in the West; it could only be achieved in the East.

The imperialist programme for Germany foresaw two phases: first the splitting of Germany and the strengthening of imperialism in the West, and second the conquest of the East by German imperialism. The plan bogged down half-way. The partitioning took place, but the plan to conquer the GDR failed, and is today quite out of the question.

The present relation of forces is such that the imperialists will never again be in a position to dominate the whole of Germany, but that the West German working class is not yet able to bring about a democratic and socialist rebirth in West Germany. This situation makes a compromise essential.

We shall never lose sight of the fact that socialism is the road of the future for the entire German people, but when we consider what steps must be taken, then we must proceed from present realities. We must expect that the present state of affairs, and the existence of two German states with differing social systems, will prevail for a longer period.

This is the only road which leads to reunification: there is no other.

When the supporters of capitalism read such proposals, then they exclaim: "There, you see, confederation is only a swindle, designed to trick us."

But we do not demand from the West German capitalists that they should abandon their belief in their system when they enter the confederation. We are not asking them to capitulate. We are almost tempted to say to these supporters of capitalism: "Courage! Perhaps your system can win the contest."

But we do not say this, because it would not be honest. We know that the historic epoch of capitalism is coming to an end. We shall remove the fears of these people in a different way. When the two German states come nearer to each other in a confederation, and when the necessary changes take place peacefully, then the capitalists — not as a class, but personally — will find an acceptable way into the epoch of socialism. In the GDR many entrepreneurs have taken the road towards a place in the socialist society, and they are satisfied with their position. In the course of a peaceful development it might be possible to solve even more generously the problem of the transition to socialism for West German capitalists.

Some people object that under the present conditions the establishment of a coalition would be such a big step that it is scarcely conceivable, or at least extraordinarily difficult. We do not claim that it would be an easy step, but we have to remember that even today there are certain relations between the two German states. The GDR and West Germany trade with each other, and negotiate with each other and conclude agreements in this field. When West German citizens travel through our state they respect our officials and present their papers for inspection. These are compromises which already exist: we do not have to start from absolute zero.

In addition, the first step towards peaceful coexistence does not have to be a confederation. The first essential is to create a minimum of correct relations, in order to stabilise peace and settle the most urgent questions. If such cooperation is successful, then we can proceed to confederation as a higher form of peaceful coexistence.

It is therefore worth facing up to the realities of this long period. Under these conditions we must create a state of affairs which meets, in the best way possible, the interests of the German people and of world peace.

The present state of Cold War, waged by Bonn against the GDR, which forces us to take counter measures, is contrary to the interests and the real wishes of peaceable

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Fill in the name and address of a friend, work-mate or acquaintance on the form below, and send it to

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9 Krausen Strasse
Berlin W 8, Germany

We shall be pleased to mail sample copies of the paper to him or her.

Name .....

Address .....

people. Atom arms for West Germany, a policy of revenge, and a policy of provocation in West Berlin deepen the moat between the two parts of the German nation. The Cold War waged against us hampers family relations and relations of friendship, and produces hardship. ("Neues Deutschland" refers here to the fact that many families are split by the present frontier through Germany, and difficulties in travel between the two German states, ed.)

The best solution would be for the German states to enter into a relationship of peaceful coexistence, which would make it possible for the German people to live together sensibly despite the existence of the two states. We suggest that this peaceful coexistence should take the form of a confederation.

A confederation would in the first place establish normal relations between the two states. The frontiers and the sovereignty of the two states would be mutually recognised. The organs of the confederation would work out recommendations for the parliaments and governments of the participants in the confederation. On the basis of compromises in the cause of peace, a joint policy could develop step by step. This could include measures to implement the peace treaty, a ban on nuclear weapons, a gradual cancellation of the military obligations of the two states, and finally complete disarmament and neutralisation. Trade between the two states would be placed upon a broader and more stable foundation, and exchanges in the field of science, culture and sport would be revived. When the habits and installations of the Cold War have been abolished, and reciprocal recognition given to passports, there would be no further barrier to normal travel.

All this would bring many advantages. Peace would be made secure, in Germany and probably in Europe too. The unity of the nation would be saved. There would be advantages for all classes and sections of the German nation. The West German bourgeoisie would win nothing from a war: it would lose everything.

Inside the confederation there would be a peaceful emulation contest between the two social systems. Over a longer period this would allow the German people to draw comparisons. We do not doubt that as a result the West Germans would one day draw their conclusions and then overcome imperialism in West Germany too. This would mean that they would have removed the obstacle to full reunification in a united Germany.

"... Still a Few Nazis ..."

By Frederick Ford

The text for the sermon this week comes from "The German View", a bulletin published weekly by the West German Embassy in London.

On December 5th 1962 this bulletin stated:

"There are still a few people in West Germany who were clever enough to secure for themselves, in the upheaval of the post-war period, positions for which they are morally disqualified in view of their political past. Eliminating these ex-Nazis is a laborious task..."

For once, GERMAN REPORT finds itself in agreement with the West German Embassy in London, though the adjective "few" in the first sentence seems rather mild.

Actually, as this paper has shown time and again in the past, there are not just a "few" people holding positions for which they are morally disqualified because of their political past; there are many thousands.

Let us start with the West German armed forces: every single one of the 150 generals and admirals served Hitler enthusiastically. Details of the records of 33 of them were given in the last issue of GERMAN REPORT. No single step has been taken to eliminate them.

Much the same position rules in the police forces. Scores of senior officers served in Hitler's Gestapo and SS; a handful of these men have in fact been eliminated in the past year or two. Under the pressure of world public opinion, a whole series of trials of members of the nazi extermination squads have been held, or are pending, in West Germany, and in nearly all these trials, the prisoners in the dock include one or more West German police officers.

Now let us look at the courts of justice. For years the world has known that many hundreds and perhaps thousands of the West German judges and public prosecutors served Hitler in similar positions. These men were not simply small bureaucrats under Hitler, but were the judges and prosecutors in the nazi "People's Courts", "Special Courts" and "Military Courts" which passed tens of thousands of death sentences on German and foreign opponents of the nazis.

The scandal became so great that the West German Government was finally forced to go through the motions of "eliminating" some of these men. The West German Government passed special legislation on September 8th 1961 providing that all judges who had served in nazi courts during the war could retire (on pension of course) by June 1962.

One year after the legislation, on September 10th 1962, it was officially announced in Bonn that 149 nazi judges had taken advantage of the retirement clause; the official announcement said that only 8 judges and 4 prosecutors with a bad nazi record had declined to resign.

If this information was even approximately true, it might appear that the West German Government had done a moderately good job of getting the nazi judges off the bench, even though they had granted these men pensions ranging upwards from about £1,300 per year in order to get them to go.

Actually, however, the figures given cover only a minute part of the incriminated nazi judges. Since 1956, when large-scale investigations into the past records of the judges began in archives of the German Democratic Republic, a total of 1188 judges have been shown to have worked in nazi political and military courts passing death sentences on opponents of the regime. 236 of these men have retired, been suspended, or died in the meantime, so that today 952 of them are still on the bench, or working as officials in the Federal or Provincial Ministries of Justice. Apparently the West German Embassy in London regards this as "a few".

Here is just one example of the sort of judge still hard at work in West Germany. Dr Raab is today judge in the Cleve Provincial Court. During the war he worked in the nazi Special Court in Prague, occupied Czechoslovakia. On April 5th 1943 he sentenced to death a Jewish citizen of Czechoslovakia named Paul Krasa, on charges of "sabotaging the state order". Krasa's offence was that he had hidden instead of reporting to the nazi authorities for "evacuation" to the gas chambers. Krasa was executed; Dr Raab is today a judge again.

The West German authorities cannot claim that they do not have access to the files on this and many hundreds or thousands of similar cases; the authorities of the GDR have offered to throw open their archives on the subject to authorised officials from West Germany, but the offer has never been taken up. In addition, hundreds of photostats of

death sentences passed by these judges have been supplied to the authorities in West Germany.

"Eliminating these ex-Nazis is a laborious task," states the West German Embassy in London. So laborious, apparently, that little or nothing is being done.

But perhaps I am being unfair. On December 15th 1962, a certain Dr Heinrich Jagusch was suddenly moved from his post as President of the Third Senate of the West German Federal Court. This "Third Senate" is the court which deals with "political offences", that is to say, in 99% of the cases, with the cases of left-wingers, opponents of nuclear arms, and all others who snipe at the Bonn Establishment from the left.

Perhaps it is purely a coincidence that one day before the removal of Dr Jagusch, details were published in East Berlin of his remarkable career under the nazis. Immediately after Hitler came to power, he took a post as "legal adviser" to the German Labour Front, the nazi substitute for trade unions, and from 1935 to 1938 he studied law. His entire studies were paid for by the "Labour Front". In 1937 he joined the Nazi Party.

These were the facts published in East Berlin. Twenty-four hours later Jagusch was moved from his post as top political judge in West Germany. He was not moved far, however; his new post is that of top traffic judge in the Federal Court.

Why was Jagusch moved down the corridor? Obviously because the West German authorities are becoming sensitive to public opinion, particulary public opinion in the western world.

As I have shown in this article, a number of nazi judges have been retired or moved to less sensitive posts. A big push now, both in West Germany and abroad, will help to get rid of the rest.

Calling Teachers of German

In the past few years, teachers of German language and literature from Britain, France and other countries have attended valuable "brush-up" courses at Erfurt in the German Democratic Republic.

Teachers interested in attending the 1963 summer school for a three-week course opening on July 29th should address their enquiries to:

Sekretariat der Internationalen Sommerkurse
Erfurt
Nordhäuser Strasse 63
German Democratic Republic

We Blooped

On December 21st 1962, GERMAN REPORT printed what purported to be a listing of the times and wavelengths of the English-language programmes of Radio Berlin International, the Voice of the German Democratic Republic.

Now our colleagues of Radio Berlin International are cross with us, and with justification, because all the times of transmissions to Britain, and some of the wavelengths given were wrong.

Our junior reporter, who drew up the list, offers the following rather thin explanation: "I took the schedule and carefully, with the help of slide-rule and logarithms, converted all the programme times quoted into Greenwich Mean Time; this was a mistake, because the times were already in GMT before I started. I must have tried to convert the wavelengths from Centigrade to Fahrenheit."

Here are the correct times and wavelengths:

You can hear Radio Berlin International in English every evening at 7.45 p.m. GMT (264 metres) and at 10.00 p.m. GMT (210 metres).

Broadcasts on short waves may be heard at 5.30 p.m. and 7.45 p.m. GMT (49.34, 49.06, 41.10 metres) and at 10.00 p.m. GMT (49.34, 41.10, 30.83 metres).

10 Years of GDR TV

By Bill Rogers

More than two million TV sets have been purchased by GDR inhabitants since a handful of hopeful fans settled down to watch the first trial programmes just ten years ago. Although prospective buyers are still faced by a long wait before they receive their sets, production is increasing steadily and supply should finally catch up with the first big wave of demand before too long.

Viewers of the programmes are not restricted to the GDR; many people in adjoining countries and millions of West Germans living near the GDR frontiers tune in more or less regularly to the programmes sent out from the Adlershof studios in south-eastern Berlin.

People with TV sets in the GDR are lucky; they are relatively untroubled by commercials — there is twenty minutes of advertising every week, which leaves plenty of time for programmes of all kinds — especially since broadcasting averages over nine hours daily, one of the longest programmes in Europe. Part of this long daily transmission time is made up of special morning "repeat" programmes for shift workers who cannot see the normal evening programmes. These morning programmes are very popular, and the West German TV Service has been forced to institute a similar morning programme in the parts of West Germany where the GDR's TV can be received.

What programmes fill the daily nine hours, for which the TV set owners pay a seven mark fee every month to the post office?

The shift-workers' repeat programmes usually last from 9:50 till noon, and then at 4:00 there is an hour or two of children's programmes, usually stressing animals and fairy tales for the little ones and sports and popular science for the older children. In any case, there is careful avoidance of anything resembling "cops and robbers" violence and bloodshed.

Twice a week at 6 o'clock the more industrious viewers are invited to attend TV classes in mathematics, physics and electro-technology. Measured by the number of viewers who send in their answers to the weekly problem (in the hopes of winning a small prize), these courses are quite popular despite their difficulty; the mathematics course has now reached logarithms and trigonometry while the electrotechnology course is dealing with problems of automation too complicated for explanation here. Anyone who sticks with the course to the end can take an examination and get a diploma.

The television academy is followed by the most popular feature of the evening — the Sandman, a little puppet who arrives with a different vehicle each month, ranging from tractor or horse and sleigh to roller skates at one extreme and space ship at the other. He allows the children enough time for one short

fairy tale or story, and then shoos them off to bed with a sprinkle of sand, leaving the TV set free for their parents.

After the news and weather forecast comes the regular evening programme, which varies completely from day to day and week to week, of course.

Films from all parts of the world form one large part of the evening entertainment. There has always been a fairly large dose of ancient German films, harmless enough but mostly very vapid. The television company has promised that the supply of these old "B" films is finally running out. This programme will be replaced by a weekly showing of top cinema classics, including many foreign films once banned by the nazis, and not shown in GDR cinemas since the war.

Probably the most popular programme of all is a mature, ironic but very good-natured review of old films and stars conducted once a month by a well-known actor from the Berliner Ensemble company, who mixes musicals and dramas, comedians and tragedians in just the right way to please every taste.

The TV dramas — foreign and domestic — are most important of all in the GDR's programme; there has been a fairly large number of very fine shows.

One play, serialised in five parts as a TV film, made a great hit despite its very serious content. Called "Conscience in Revolt", it dramatised the true story of a Wehrmacht officer who defied Hitler's "hold fast" orders and surrendered the town of Greifswald (in the north of the present GDR) to the Soviet army without a battle in the closing days of the war, both to save lives and property and because he was sick of the nazis. After the war he became mayor of the town, but during a trip to West Germany he was jailed on a framed-up espionage charge, and thrown into a prison for war criminals where he nearly lost his life at the hands of former Hitler officers, inside and outside the prison, who considered him a traitor.

This film was such a success that it went on from TV into the ordinary cinema circuit of the GDR, reversing the usual order of things. It has since been shown successfully on TV in Poland, Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

In general, the TV dramas, apart from classics, fall into several main groups. There are many plays exposing nazis and anti-Semites, both in Hitler Germany and today in West Germany. Another group of plays deals with colonialism, like the popular series two years ago, "Flight from Hell", based on the activities of the Foreign Legion and the Red Hand (later OAS) in Algeria and West Germany, and the recent play on colonial intrigue in Latin America. A third group of plays reflect problems in the GDR, especially in industry and agriculture. These latter are not always so popular, for many have been schoolmasterly and rather boring, on the oft-parodied "boy-meets-tractor" level.

Recently there has been a breakthrough here, and some recent plays in this category have helped to get people talking and debating about current problems from a new angle. There have also been a number of successful socialist "whodunnits", some good comedies, and valiant efforts to produce what might be called socialist soap opera.

GDR TV offers a wide variety of classical plays, from Goethe to Oscar Wilde, and contemporary foreign plays. Recent ones have included the startling British TV play "The Night Conspirators" by Robert Muller, envisaging what might happen if Hitler was still alive, "Death of a Salesman" by Arthur Miller, and, as a special New Year treat, "Arsenic and Old Lace".

Standbys on the TV programme are excellent travelogues (at present a series showing each of the new countries in Africa in some detail), popular animal shows conducted by the heads of the Dresden and East Berlin zoos, advice for the farmer, technology from the factories, and a large number of musical and ballet programmes.

There are even regular programmes discussing the latest books and the attractions at the cinema, and practically urging people not to spend too much time in front of their TV sets.

Saturday is usually loaded with light revue, quiz and entertainment programmes, and each of the most famous comedians has both a huge number of fans and an equally large number of people who wouldn't be caught dead looking at him.

One advantage for GDR viewers is Intervision, the East European equivalent of Eurovision, which permits the exchange of sports events, cultural performances and other shows from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and, now, the Soviet Union. Later this year Rumania and Bulgaria will also join the network.

After ten years, the GDR's television still has many problems, and many weaknesses. Yet, on the whole, it follows a wise policy of seldom playing down to its viewers but rather trying to raise standards and improve tastes while at the same time providing entertainment. This has already had positive effects on the cultural level of the GDR's population.

Our Baffled Readers

"I frankly don't believe much of the childish tripe you publish in GERMAN REPORT but it is interesting to read what the other guy has to say. Unfortunately your newspaper is written for those with 12-year-old minds; so please cancel my subscription."

Richard A. Sullivan, Camden, New Jersey.

Bombs Explode in E. Berlin

Two bombs, apparently placed by West German agents, exploded in East Berlin at midnight on December 30th 1962. The bombs did considerable damage in the House of German-Soviet Friendship, and on a car park near to police headquarters, but nobody was injured. Another bomb, all components of which came from West Germany, was discovered and defused before it could explode.

Just before the bombs went off, anonymous telephone calls were made to news agencies in West Berlin, announcing the sabotage attempt.

These bombs were the first to be exploded well inside East Berlin, capital of the German Democratic Republic. Other recent bomb plots launched from West Berlin have taken place in the immediate vicinity of the state frontier which runs through the centre of Berlin.

On December 29th, the Supreme Court of the GDR sentenced a West Berlin terrorist, Harry Seidel, to life imprisonment for offences against the "Law for the Protection of Peace". Evidence was given that Seidel had made at least seven illegal armed forays across the frontier of the GDR in Berlin. When he was arrested, well within GDR territory, he was carrying a loaded revolver ready to fire.

Meet the People (I)

Housewife Else Pratje

by Helga Preuss

Who are the ordinary women and men of the German Democratic Republic? What changes have they seen in the course of their lives? What are they doing today? What are their plans for the future?

In a series of articles, starting in this issue, GERMAN REPORT introduces a number of these ordinary people, doing ordinary jobs. For a start we introduce a number of women; they have all read and agreed to the articles we print; they all appear under their own names.

I had already made a boat, a hat and two stars for little two-and-a-half year old Claudia with the paper I had meant to take notes on, when Else Pratje, her mother, returned to the room. "I've put fresh nappies on the baby, and there should not be any more interruptions", she said. "Now we can start."

I was visiting the pleasant home of Else Pratje, a mother of four children, to ask her questions about her past and future life. No prolonged prodding was necessary; after filling the coffee cups and serving some home-baked pastry she began her story.

"I was born in 1927 in the Wedding district of Berlin. I started school in 1933, the year the nazis took over. I attended six classes of elementary school. Then I was transferred to an "Aufbauklasse" (like Junior High School) where I could study a foreign language. At first, we were promised that no school fees would be required. My father was a paperhanger and earned terribly little in those days, sometimes only 35 marks a week, which was just barely enough to keep our family of four. But after a few weeks at the new school I was told we had to pay tuition. It was a terrible blow, but somehow my father managed to keep me at school."

While Else Pratje talked about her school days, she did not smile as most people do when recalling their childhood. Her memories were sad ones; during the war, the children often spent more time in the air raid shelters than in the classrooms. At night they had air raid defence service. During one raid two of her school friends and a teacher were killed by a bomb.

After she left school at 14 she had to report immediately for her Pflichtjahr (service year). At that time it was compulsory for all girls, except those who could afford to go to secondary school till the age of eighteen, to work for a year in a household or on a farm for 15 marks a month. And Else had to drudge as she never had before. It was winter, and she often cried, she told me, when she had to beat carpets or wash the laundry with her chapped and sore hands. Her "master", a captain in the nazi Wehrmacht, and his wife, were happy to have such a cheap housemaid.

At this time, Else lost her home. The flat was completely destroyed by incendiary bombs. She was not able to salvage a single blanket, a dress or even a cup.

But she had to continue making a living somehow. After her service year she worked as a special delivery messenger for the post office. And then came the conscription notice for labour service; she was told to report at the conscription centre on April 20th 1945 in order to serve for a year's labour for nothing but a tiny sum of pocket money. Girls who had the money to attend college were exempted.

Else was lucky. She did not have to work in the labour service. The war came to an end and the nazis, fearing the revenge of those they had oppressed, disappeared from public life, concealing their pasts as well as they could.

In the last hours of the war she just managed to escape a special nazi press gang which was trying to organise a girl's military squad to defend the Reichstag bunker.

After the war ended, Else worked in the newly-opened Public Library Building. Her job was to help get rid of all nazi or pro-nazi books and to supply the new public libraries with decent literature. Her chief, a former prisoner of Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, was an acquaintance of her father, who had worked together with prisoners "lent out" by the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, and had often sacrificed some of his own meager rations to help out the hungry prisoners. A friendship with one of the prisoners had now resulted in Else's new job.

One day Else found new work in the editorial offices of a newspaper published for the children's Young Pioneer organisation. She showed great interest in the work and seemed gifted in working with children, so she was sent to a course for Pioneer leaders.

She smiled. "The course was interesting, and we had a very pleasant teacher. Lessons began in April, by August the pleasant teacher and I had decided to try life together and in December we implemented our decision by getting married. We also decided to have three children, and, as you see, we have over-fulfilled our plan!"

I had only seen two of them, Claudia and the youngest boy, who is a year old. The two "grown children", 10-year-old Ulrich and his

New Documents on Globke

Dr Hans Globke, today State Secretary in the West German Government, and Chancellor Adenauer's personal assistant, had his hand in nearly every aspect of nazi racialist policy, ranging from the drafting of the anti-Semitic Nuremberg Laws to plans to deport all Africans and Asians from occupied France.

Recently still further incriminating documents on Globke's past record have been discovered in the nazi files; these new documents deal with his part in the drafting of special discriminatory legislation aimed against Poles.

A 260-page selection of the most important documents in the Globke case, with descriptive text in English, French and German, has just been published in East Berlin by the Committee for Germany Unity. GERMAN REPORT will be glad to send free copies of the book to readers abroad. The supply is limited, so please rush your orders to:

GERMAN REPORT
9 Krausen Strasse
Berlin W 8
German Democratic Republic

8-year-old sister Regine, were in the "all-day-school", a fairly new institution in the GDR, where in general school lasts only till noontime. In these new experimental all-day schools, the children have their lessons in the morning, eat lunch in the school canteen, do their homework in the afternoon under the supervision of a teacher, asking questions if need be, and then have play time until 5 o'clock.

"Regine has nearly all her toys at school now. I always have a battle with her when I want her to come early for some reason. Ulrich does not like it so well, however; that may be the fault of the teacher, but the school building is not very well adapted as an all-day school. It's an old, badly-constructed building. We are currently trying to find a better solution for these children and to overcome the mistakes which were bound to pop up in the early stages of such an experiment." She said "we", for she helps decide what is done with her children at school. She is a member of both the class parents' group and the school "parents' council", organisations of parents who help the teachers, the children and themselves by cooperating with the school.

Was she happy? "I am waiting impatiently for my little boy to reach the age of three, so that I can send him and Claudia to kindergarten and go to work again." Before the two youngest children were born she had worked on a part-time basis in her old field of library work, and she had enjoyed it greatly. "I cannot remain here at home," she said, "I'll perish if I do!" She has no time to be bored, it is true, but she does not like life as a housewife, where she misses the contacts and the feeling of satisfaction to be found in a job. That is the reason for her latest plan; instead of just waiting for her children to reach kindergarten age, she has decided to apply for a correspondence course at the Librarian School in Leipzig. This will require 15 hours of study a week, but she believes that she can manage it. Such correspondence courses, which used to be restricted to working people, are now open to housewives as well. While the children are very small, their mothers can do their studying. After four years they complete the courses, receive their diplomas, and are qualified to fill a job which will mean satisfaction to them, as well as a much higher salary than if they were unqualified.

"I hope that I can manage it," Else told me with a small note of worry in her voice. I looked at her, thought of all she had been through already and said, "I'm sure you will!"

Are Grey Curtains "Un-Socialist"

By Eustace Gordon

A lively discussion on the application of principles of "Socialist Realism" in the sphere of applied art has recently got under way in the GDR. Starting point for the discussion was an exhibition of modern furnishings, glassware and other articles held in Dresden in the autumn. Many people who attended the exhibition were pleased to see plain lines and clear colours replacing the over-decoration which has often marked GDR products in this field in the past; other people objected to the "cold functionalism" which they thought dominated the exhibition.

A press discussion of the exhibition opened when "Neues Deutschland", central organ of the Socialist Unity Party, published a long article on October 4th 1962 entitled "Lagging Behind Life".

This article made a number of sweeping charges. Plain white cylindrical vases were described as "cold, smooth, and having nothing more to do with art... nothing remains but cold functionalism".

Turning to furnishing materials and curtains, the author of the article stated: "These materials are in a basic tone of grey. The designer rejected decorations based upon nature or the world of labour... and confined herself to mainly abstract geometric figures. The alienation of the decoration from every link with the people is the beginning of a development which leads to stagnation... This would be the end of art."

Criticising a radio receiver as "sharp-cornered and geometric", the author asked: "Does such a 'reduction to essentials' accord with the optimistic joy of living of socialist men and women?"

This article, and in particular the intolerant tone in which it was written, led to heated discussions in artistic circles, and on January 4th "Neues Deutschland" devoted a whole page to letters and articles arguing the pros and cons of the case. Here are extracts from some of the contributions:

Gisela May, one of the outstanding actresses of the GDR, wrote: "Huge ideological hammers are used to smash harmless clearly-shaped white vases. People who like grey colours and grey material now know, if they did not know before, that they do not look forward with optimism towards a socialist future... All of us love socialism; but let us have our grey colours too, our white vases and ascetic chairs."

Harald Kretzschmar, an artist, wrote: "It is really out of all proportion to bring up the heavy ideological artillery in this case..."

Günter Rothe of Berlin wrote: "I am very much in favour of a full discussion of all the questions affecting applied art. The relationship between artists, producers and consumers must be particularly close in this field. Such discussions would help us develop our taste, and would naturally also show that consumers have the most varied ideas. I like those plain white vases; does this mean that I am ideologically confused? Other people certainly prefer vases with decorations; does this mean that they are therefore ideologically clear?"

The only readers' letter supporting the views expressed in the original article came from two representatives of the Leipzig School for Applied Art, who stated that they agreed that the "reduction to essentials" criticised in the article was mainly of an ideological nature. Their letter continued with a rather mysterious charge: "We see a grave situation arising, which is apparently fed from a certain 'papal' circle." They offered no further explanation, but were apparently not referring to the Catholic Church.

Summing up the discussion to date, "Neues Deutschland" greeted the fact that basic questions of cultural policy were being aired. It was admitted that the original article was marred by "a few blemishes", but apart from these, it was stated that the article had been right in principle.

The discussion continues.

GDR Leader Dies in Crash

Heinz Rauch, 47, head of the Central Statistical Administration in the GDR Cabinet and a veteran of the Spanish Civil War and the Scandinavian resistance movement, was killed in a major plan crash near Warsaw on December 19th. The victims of the crash also included his Swedish-born wife Märte and two sons.

After the nazis came to power, Heinz Rauch escaped to Scandinavia. He fought in Spain in the International Brigades and later in the resistance in Occupied Norway. Soon after the war, he returned with his wife to Germany where both played an active part in building up the GDR.

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BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Rather belatedly, I would like to award to Lajos Lederer, correspondent of the London "Observer", the GERMAN REPORT Challenge Trophy for the most preposterous story of 1962. This keenly-sought award, made of genuine sploinge, consists of a statuette of a journalist with both feet in his mouth.

Unless you are a reader of the "Observer" (one of the more reasonable newspapers, except for Mr Lederer), you will want to know more about the award-winning story. Printed on page 2 of the issue of December 16th 1962, under the headline "Now Ulbricht adopts the new line of mildness", it was moderately factual until it got onto the subject of Christmas. Here are the two paragraphs which bring Mr Lederer his prize:

"The milder line now emerging in East Germany has also begun to transform daily life. Party directives have been issued to make it quite clear that Christmas can be freely celebrated, that Christian belief is no longer considered a fault or a crime.

"For the first time for many years Christmas music and concerts of church bells will be allowed, and church services will be broadcast."

Trying to disentangle this is rather like trying to answer the proverbial lawyer who asked the man in the dock: "Have you stopped beating your wife yet? — answer yes or no." None of the activities mentioned by Mr Lederer have ever been banned, so it must have been hard to draft "Party directives" permitting them. Ever since the founding of the German Democratic Republic Christmas has been the most thoroughly celebrated festival of the year, and December 25th and 26th are, and always have been, public holidays.

Christian belief has never been regarded as a fault, let alone a crime, in the GDR. One of the main partners in the coalition government which has ruled the GDR since its foundation is the Christian Democratic Union (not to be confused with Adenauer's party of the same name), composed of practising Christians. The government makes a grant-in-aid to help in the payment of pastors, and has contributed large sums to help restore war-damaged churches.

As to the "Christian content" of Christmas, I hazard a rough guess that it is about at the same level as it is in Britain. For most people, Christmas is a time for feasting, Christmas trees, and giving presents to children. The 10% or 15% of the population who want to do so go to church services. Church services, incidentally, have been regularly broadcast for as far back as anyone here can remember.

As to Christmas music, there sometime seems to be too much of a good thing. The radio bats out Christmas songs ranging from "White Christmas" to "Silent Night" for weeks before the holiday arrives, and as I write these lines (just before Christmas) a barrel-organ under my office window is baffling thought by grinding out "Tannenbaum", the favorite German Christmas carol.

But this last fact, of course, will not convince Mr Lederer. If he were right here with me now, he would probably say: "There, you see. The barrel-organ man has received his Party directive and is now playing Christmas music."

But perhaps Mr Lederer has some facts to support his sweeping story. I hereby offer him equal space for a reply. Over to you, Mr Lederer.

Footnote: "Neue Zeit", daily newspaper of the GDR's Christian Democratic Union, commenting on December 24th on Mr Lederer's article, stated succinctly:

"Hurrah! Now we can emerge from our coal cellars; the Christmas service will be held in the church. And we can dig our Bibles and hymnals from holes where we buried them."

• • •

If Britain ever gets dragged into the Common Market, then a moon-faced spectacled character called Professor Walter Hallstein of West Germany is liable to be laying down the law on all sort of questions which have hitherto been solved with a greater or lesser degree of success by the British themselves.

Professor Hallstein bears the not very informative title of "President of the Commission of the European Economic Community", but in effect he is the boss of the Common Market. In view of the importance of his post, it is perhaps interesting to take a little glimpse at his past history. He was not a prominent nazi, it is true, and that is why nobody seems to have taken the trouble hitherto to riffle through his files, but the scanty facts which have now come to light show that he quite happily played along with the nazis in general, and their anti-Semitic legislation in particular.

During the entire nazi period he was a professor of law at the universities of Rostock and Frankfurt/Main. On December 17th 1938, Professor Hallstein, acting for the Dean of the Legal Faculty of Rostock University, signed a report to the university authorities stating: "The undersigned has applied to the competent authorities for Georg Salier to be deprived of the title of Doctor."

Two months later, Georg Salier was deprived of the title. Little is known about Doctor Georg Salier; the only thing certain is that he was of Jewish origin, and this is obviously the reason for cancelling his academic title, which he had won in 1903. Nothing is known of his fate, either, but it is probable that he ended in the gas chamber. Professor Hallstein helped to send him there; but today Professor Hallstein is, of course, an honourable man, and the boss of the Common Market.

• • •

I rather fancy an anecdote told by American film director Melville Shavelson in "Life" about filming in Rome: "For one scene in 'Pigeon', a film about World War II, we had searched fruitlessly for a menacing-looking building that could be rented as the setting for Nazi headquarters ... We pulled up to a palatial, but vaguely foreboding structure. It was exactly right. I congratulated the driver on his keen cinematic sense and rushed to the front door to negotiate for the use of the premises. A hairbreadth away, I stopped. I had almost rung the bell of the new (West) German embassy. We found some place else."

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Here is a great thought for the new year. Famed US journalist James Reston complains in the Paris "New York Times" that the New York "New York Times", which usually prints his articles, cannot appear because of a strike:

"Besides, how do I know what to think if I can't read what I write?"

(If the geography of the above paragraph worries you, I can't help it. And I don't know if the Los Angeles "New York Times" printed the article.)

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